

I REMEMBER QUEBEC



JUNE 24 / I REMEMBER HAPPY DAY QUEBEC / BUT ACTUALLY, I REMEMBER WHAT?

What is the interpretation that we should give to the motto of Quebec: "I REMEMBER" illustrated nearly 150 years ago by the architect Baillargé on the bas-relief of the wrought iron fence of the Dufferin terrace in Quebec ?



From this image, we can clearly see the architect's intention to illustrate the European founding peoples of QUEBEC via national floral emblems.



So much so that the meaning of the Quebec motto “I remember” would read as follows:

I remember being born under the French lily and growing up under the English rose, the Irish clover and the Scottish thistle.

And taken up by the architect Taché who engraved it on the tercentenary medal of the City of Quebec (1908)



I remember that I was born under the lilies - French (left banner) and grew up under the roses - English. (RIGHT)



But Quebec has evolved since then, its history must also include the Amerindian First Nations.



LA CHICOUTAI

Donations here is a suggestion motion called explanatory addendum to the national motto which reads as follows

“I REMEMBER THAT I WAS BORN UNDER THE FRENCH LILY AND THE
NATIVE AMERICAN CHICOUTAI

- I GREW UP UNDER THE ENGLISH ROSE, THE IRISH CLOVER, THE SCOTTISH
THISTLE,

- AND I EMANCIPATED MYSELF AS A FRENCH NATION IN AMERICA UNDER
THE VERSICOLOR IRIS.



IRIS VERSICOLORE – THE NATIONAL FLOWER OF QUEBEC

ONCE UPON A TIME UPON NEW FRANCE

THE FOUNDING MANUSCRIPT OF NEW FRANCE FOUND IN FRANCE

A mysterious manuscript from 1602 which details, for the benefit of the king, the outlines of a future French colony in America was allegedly written by the hand of Samuel de Champlain, founder of Quebec.



This unpublished document of around thirty pages was found by the French historian Éric Thierry in the archives of the National Library of France. It would be one of the oldest documents written by Champlain's hand, the other being a map of New France dating from 1607 kept at the Library of Congress in Washington.

The National Library of France has a curious anonymous manuscript of around thirty pages which presents to King Henry IV a project for a colonial establishment on the northeast coast of the American continent. After belonging to the abbey of Saint-Germain-des-Prés and the influential Harlay family of Parisian parliamentarians, the document ended up in the Library during the French Revolution. Historians have attached little importance to it, believing they are dealing with a geographical fantasy. Analysis of this manuscript reveals that it dates from 1602 or 1603 and that it comes from the entourage of Aymar de Chaste, governor of Dieppe. If it is not signed, the writing closely resembles that of Champlain's handwritten map which is in the Library of Congress in Washington, and multiple elements recall episodes from the life of the founder of Quebec. Not the least of which is the search for the route from China across North America... Could it be that Samuel de Champlain was the author? This is what Éric Thierry, a doctor at the University of Paris-Sorbonne who notably published the works of Champlain in modern French, thinks.

This mysterious document offers us an unprecedented insight into the steps that led to French colonization in North America. This handwritten letter from Champlain addressed to King Henry IV in 1602-03 precedes his first trip to the Saint Lawrence River. According to historian Éric Thierry: "At this time, Champlain lived at the court of King Henry IV in Paris. The king charged him with collecting and archiving all the information available in America, because in 1602, there was fear of a resumption of war

between France and Spain. Henry IV would like to create a colony in North America from which the French could attack the Spanish colonies where the gold and silver that made Spain particularly powerful came from. »



At court, Champlain had access to the English and Dutch maps found there, but above all he visited Norman ports and collected stories from fishermen and navigators who provided him with valuable information. This is how in his letter to the king he mentions four possible places for the establishment of a French colony: the Chesapeake Bay, the mouth of the Kennebec River or that of the Penobscot River in Maine and finally the bay from Fundy. Curiously, the St. Lawrence River is not one of the options for settlement, but the explorer instead suggests that this river could offer France the coveted passage to China.

If French settlement in America is the King's great project, access to China is Champlain's. He is convinced that the source of the river is in Lake Zubgara, a body of water located further west that was found on maps from the end of the 16th century.

But beware of the trap of hagiography.

Of course, Champlain played a central role in the founding of Quebec, but he was only a subordinate, his decision-making power was limited. To understand the exact role of Champlain in New France we must turn to Henri IV. In 1603, the king named Pierre Dugua de Mons his lieutenant general in New France and the latter, in 1608, mandated François Gravé du Pont for diplomacy with the Amerindians and mandated Champlain for the construction of the habitation of Quebec.

Champlain is therefore beholden to a superior in office and although he negotiates alliances with indigenous chiefs, he always obeys (1608-1635) the orders of the monarchs and colonial leaders he represents. Thus, at no time does it define France's Amerindian policy. He only applied the policy of alliances of Henri IV maintained until the fall of New France in 1763. The one who finally had the authority to officially conclude in the name of the king alliances, peace treaties and confederations with the "indigenous princes" is the official representative of the king in America: Pierre Dugua de Mons. Each action accomplished by Champlain in Acadia (1604-1607) and in Canada (1608-1612) was therefore made possible thanks to the financial contribution of Dugua de Mons: explorations, diplomacy with the Amerindians, participation in the indigenous wars in 1609 and in 1610, discovery of Lake Champlain, founding of Quebec, etc. New France would not have been the same without Pierre Dugua de Mons. The man and his essential action deserve to be recognized.



PIERRE DUGUA DE MONS

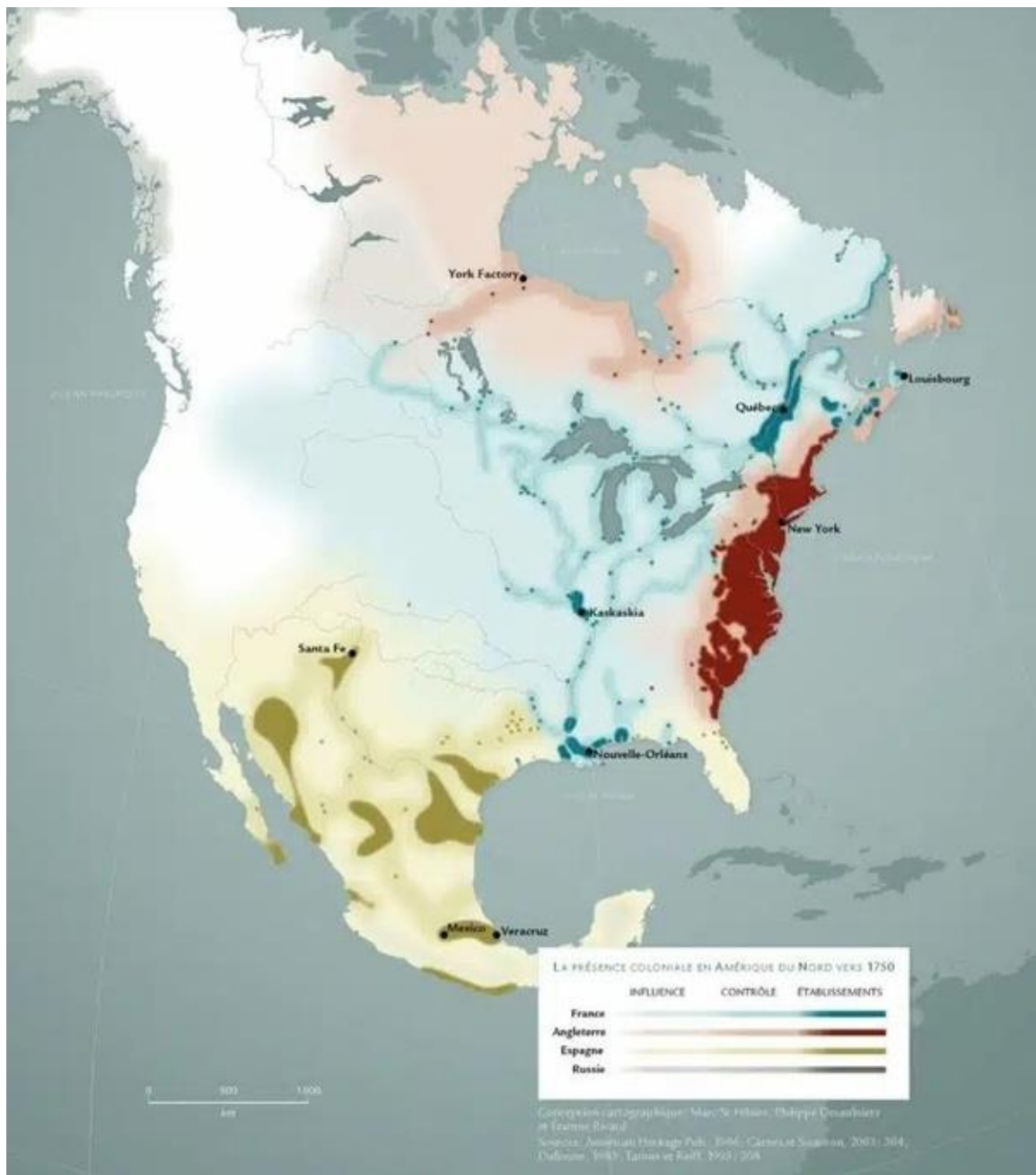
But for a long time, historians of Quebec, most of them Catholic (including several religious), ignored or underestimated the contribution of Dugua de Mons to the founding of the colony. Among other reasons: he is of the “contrary religion” or “so-called reformed”, i.e. Protestantism. In his youth, he took part in the wars of religion against the Catholic League and supported the future King Henry IV. As a reward, he was named gentleman of the king's chamber and, then, commissioned as lieutenant-general of New

France from 1603 to 1612, he laid the foundations of Port-Royal (capital of Acadian New France) and financed the founding of Quebec during the period 1608-1613. This rectification based on historical facts takes nothing away from the exceptional prestige of Champlain, the founder.



SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

ONCE UPON A TIME, NEW FRANCE



The surface area of New France

In 1540, King Francis I of France decided to extend his kingdom to the New World. The first French colony in America was established at Cap-Rouge. From 1541 to 1543, hundreds of men and women came to create a New France led by Jean-François de La Rocque de Roberval and assisted by Jacques Cartier.

Arriving at the place already mapped by Jacques Cartier called Cap-aux-Diamants, Champlain discovered a Native American village called “KEBEC”, a word of Algonquin origin literally meaning “Where the river narrows”. The soldier Champlain quickly understood the strategic importance of this narrow passage and decided to found the city of Quebec and also decided to place cannons on both banks of the river. By controlling Quebec, France controls all of North America.



Prise de Possession de la Louisiane et du Fleuve Mississippi au Nom de Louis XIV, par Cavelier de la Salle, le 9 Avril 1682 (lithographie par Bocquin, BNF)

Subsequently, starting from Quebec going up the river towards its source, the French founded the villages of Trois-Rivières, Montreal (Hochelaga), Detroit, Saint-Louis – Missouri. On April 9, 1682, René-Robert Cavelier de La Salle took possession of the Mississippi in the name of the King of France, Louis XIV. Surrounded by his French and Native American companions, under the eyes of local Indians, the explorer faces the

mouth of the great American river. With all possible solemnity, he named “Louisiana”, in honor of the Sun King, the very vast region which extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes.

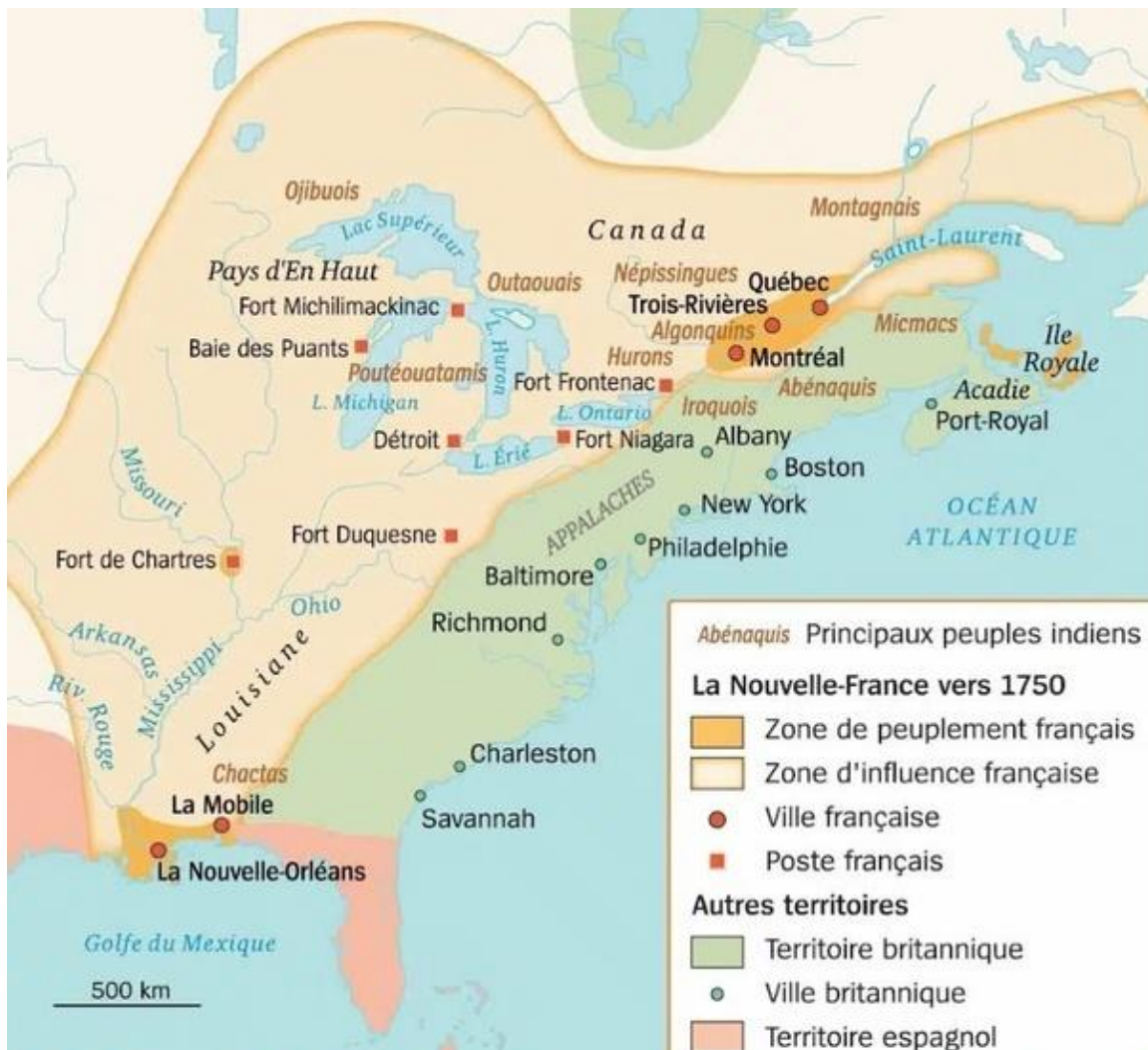
Note that it was the Frenchman Monsieur Pointe-du-Sable, a Haitian slave freed by the French who founded CHICAGO. Born to a French father and an enslaved African mother in Saint-Marc, Santo Domingo (now Haiti) around 1745, DuSable's early life is essentially a mystery.



We know that between 1769 and 1770, he was shipwrecked while traveling to New Orleans with his friend Jacques Clemorgan and stayed in this region. An entrepreneur always looking for opportunities to further his business, DuSable worked north from New Orleans, moving several times over the next few years. He built relationships within several Native American communities in the Great Lakes region and was eventually mentored by Pontiac, or Obwaandi'eyaag, chief of several Great Lakes tribes. DuSable was instrumental in negotiating and preserving peace between several tribes after the war and Pontiac's death. By 1778, DuSable had settled in the area that would become Chicago.

At its peak, New France (as the entire French North American colony was then called) was an immense and grandiose territory, stretching from the Appalachians in the East to the great prairies in the West. , and from Hudson Bay and Labrador in the North to Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico in the South, passing through the Great Lakes and the Valley and Gulf of Saint Lawrence, the heart of the colony. An immensity of forests, lakes, marshes, rocks and meadows, populated only by 70,000 settlers and a few hundred thousand Native Americans (the latter having already been greatly decimated by the diseases imported by the settlers.) , with whom the French are everywhere allied and maintain major political and commercial alliances (not to mention the significant crossbreeding that developed from the founding of the colony between these nations).





Franco-Native American influence map

North America remains more of a Franco-Amerindian zone of “influence” than a real settlement colony, particularly compared to neighboring British colonies...

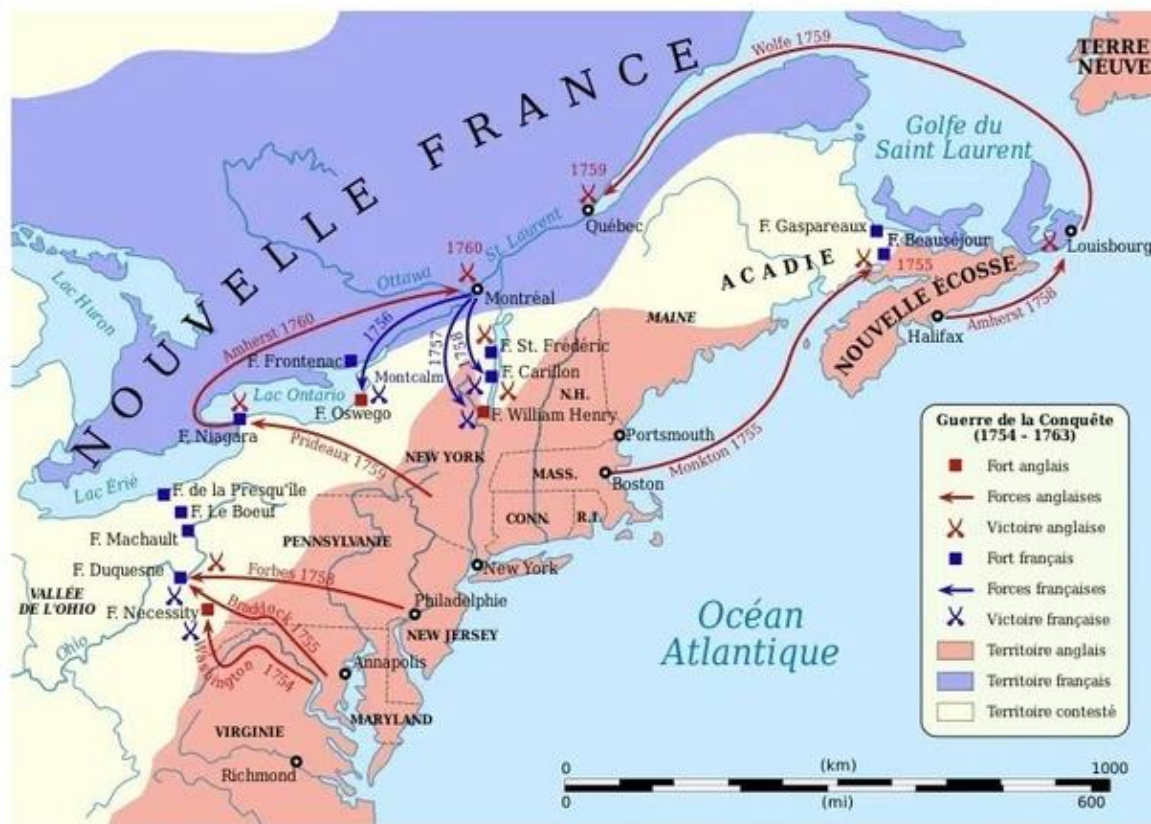
To maintain its empire in North America, France had to rely on alliances with the natives. In fact, the number of Amerindian nations allied with the French was quite astonishing. The French could count on almost all the Algonquians of Canada, Acadia and the south of the Great Lakes (today in American territory), that is to say the Abenakis, the Micmacs, the Montagnais, the Maliseet, the Algonquins, the Hurons, the Ottawas, the Saulteaux (Ojibwe), the Crees, the Eries, the Blackfeet, the Illinois, the Miamis, the Poutéouatamis, etc. In Louisiana, the French had obtained alliances with a large number of nations, including the Chactas, the Jacks, the Natchez, the Oumas, the Nakotas, the Lakotas, etc.

Having consolidated their alliances with the natives, the French controlled not only Acadia, the St. Lawrence valley, but also the Ohio valley, which extended from Fort Detroit to Louisiana and the mouth of the Mississippi. We can thus affirm that, on the

whole, the French established rather cordial (although paternalistic) relations with the indigenous populations, except with the Iroquois with whom they were often at war, at least until the Great Peace of Montreal of 1701.



In short, from Jacques Cartier (1534) until the Treaty of Paris of 1763, Franco-Indian relations easily remained peaceful, which contrasted with Anglo-Indian and American-Indian relations. It is not for nothing that the Americans have always called the Seven Years' War: the French and Indian War. As for the British, they called it War of the Conquest, British Conquest, War for Empire or less frequently Seven Years' War. Seven years). But of all the names, it is that in English of French and Indian War, which seems the most significant, because it illustrates the interweaving of the Franco-Indian alliances in this final war.



La guerre de la Conquête (appelée dans le monde anglosaxon la « French and Indian War ») se traduira par sept années de violents affrontements (expéditions, attaques de forts, sièges, batailles rangées,...) entre les franco-canadiens (et leurs alliés amérindiens) et les anglo-américains, de 1754 à 1760.

THE BATTLE OF THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM

The Battle of the Plains of Abraham constitutes a key moment in the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) which raged in Europe, India and North America (American history books call the conflict in North America the " French and Indian War").

While France was preoccupied with hostilities in Europe, Britain targeted French colonies overseas and attacked the French navy and merchant fleet, hoping to destroy France as a trading rival.

Although the French repelled several British attacks in North America, including Louis-Joseph Montcalm's successful defense of Fort Carillon, the British made considerable progress in 1759. On July 26, 1758, they captured the fortified town of Louisbourg on the Île Royale (Cape Breton Island). This led to the capture of other French positions in Atlantic Canada, and left New France exposed to British ships which could now navigate the St. Lawrence River.

September 12, 1759

A first attempt is a failure.

The movements of the English boats were in fact detected by the lookouts, and during the night, Montcalm, the French general commanding the defense of Quebec and New France, hastily sent companies of Canadian soldiers and militia to take position on the cliffs, hidden in the woods. The French's Native American allies are there too. They know ambush and contact warfare well, it's the way of fighting in which they excel.



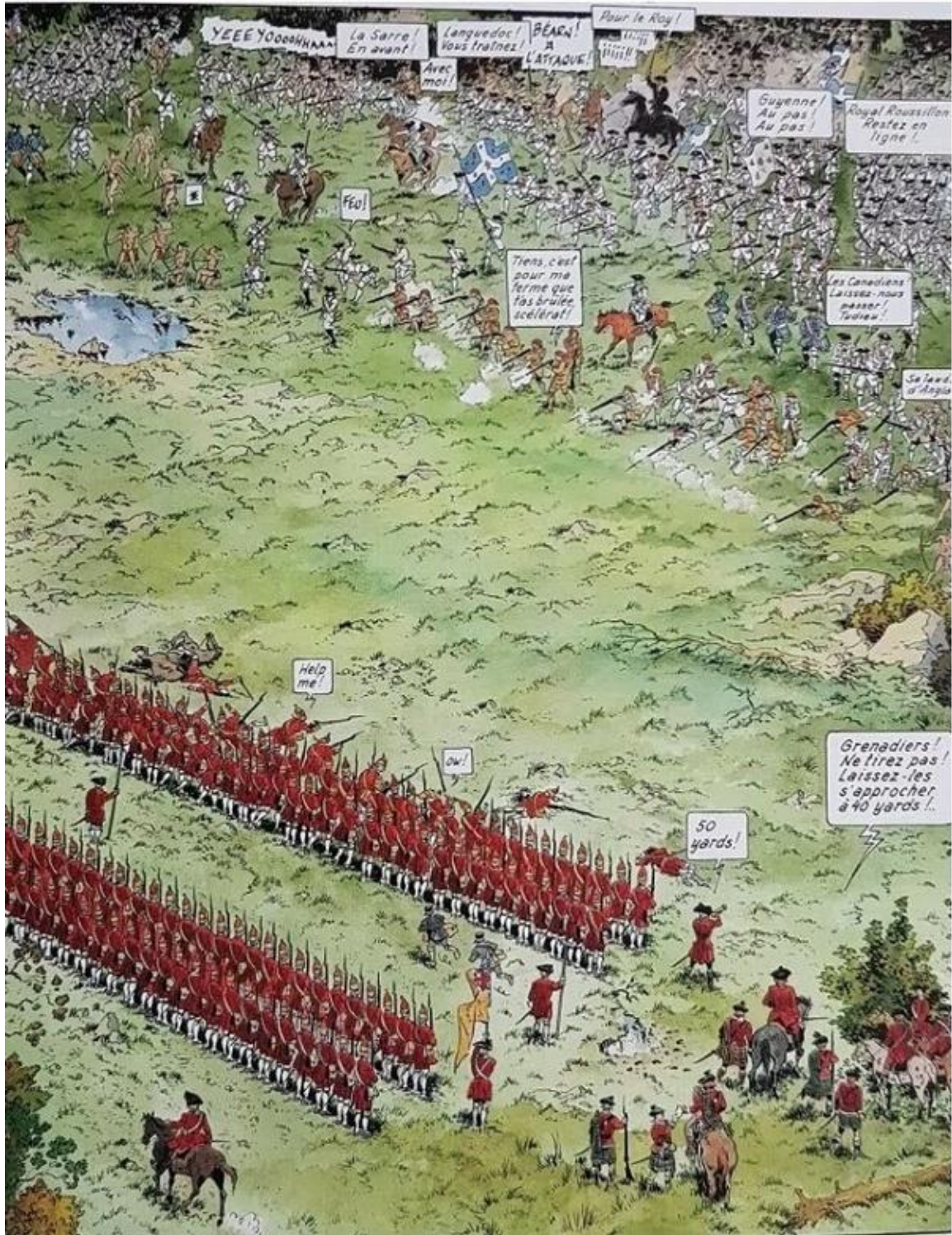
Partant à l'assaut téméraire des falaises, n'écoutant plus leurs officiers, les grenadiers britanniques tombent sur les soldats franco-canadiens proprement retranchés derrière les anfractuosités de la falaise, et c'est la débâcle...

Second attempt

The sea is full of longboats going back and forth between the proud English ships of the line and frigates and the cliff, landing thousands and thousands of men in the night - almost all the forces available.

Usually, General Bougainville and his men patrol the area, but tonight they were far away, lured by false threats to the west. The sunrise is accompanied by a vision of horror for the city's garrison: Wolfe's entire army is deployed on the Plains of Abraham, facing the least well-defended side of the city. And the 3,000 men who continually patrol the beach downstream of Quebec to prevent any British landing are on the other side of the city. They will return by forced march, tired in advance of the tough fight that lies ahead.

Wolfe had his grenadiers perfectly aligned, elite soldiers, with rare discipline. They armed their rifles with a double charge, and were ordered to open fire only when the enemy was only 40 paces away. A devastating fire, for those who are ready to endure enemy fire until it finally comes within range...



Un assaut français très désordonné face à des grenadiers anglais d'une discipline impeccable, et qui tiennent bon sous le feu ennemi malgré les pertes, attendant inflexiblement l'ordre d'ouvrir le feu.

It is now 10 o'clock, and the French, gathered under the walls, are preparing for the attack. Montcalm decided to accept combat, a decision that historians still have difficulty understanding today given the configuration of the battle (reinforcements then being

likely to arrive at any time and thus take the troops from behind). de Wolfe, not to mention the snipers who harassed the British from the flanks and inflicted significant losses on them).

The French regiments charged in disorder, hampered in their maneuvers and their formations by the Canadian militiamen, who fought by throwing themselves to the ground (the guerrilla tactics of non-professional soldiers and other coursers of the woods actually went very poorly with the essential discipline of a pitched battle...).

Louis-Joseph Montcalm's men advance and begin shooting when they are approximately 120 meters from the British front.

100 meters, 80 meters, 70 meters... Front line grenadiers fall, but the orders are formal, and the English rifles remain silent. However, James Wolfe's men held their ground until the French were 40 meters away, then they began to fire continuously, which prevented the progress of their enemies. James Wolfe's army is made up almost entirely of regular soldiers, who are highly skilled and trained for the coming battle.

60 meters, 50 meters, 40 meters,... Finally the order of the officers falls. "FIRE." The first volley decimated the first French lines. The grenadiers reload, and continue the salvos. The disorganized French soldiers struggled to put up an effective counterfire.



Vue de la prise de Québec par les Anglais



Québec après la bataille



General James Wolfe died shortly after the shooting began, when he was shot three times during the first minutes of the battle. Upon hearing that the French forces were retreating, James Wolfe reportedly said: "Now, thank God, I die in peace." Several other high-ranking British officers were also killed, and the British charge lost much of its strength. direction.



Brigadier General George Townshend took over command and organized two battalions to counter French reinforcements approaching from behind led by Colonel Louis-Antoine de Bougainville. He decides to retreat, which allows the British to consolidate their position on the heights. Although this action allowed Louis-Joseph Montcalm's army to escape, the latter was injured during the retreat and died the next morning in Quebec. It is said that after learning that he was going to die from his wounds, Louis-Joseph Montcalm declared: "So much the better, I won't see the British in Quebec."



A year later, it was Montreal's turn to surrender.



The Battle of the Plains of Abraham marks a turning point in the history of New France and what would later become Canada. With their victory and the defeat of the French stronghold of Quebec, the British established a strong presence in New France, thus foreshadowing the eventual defeat of the French and the beginning of British hegemony in North America.

However, the elimination of France as a North American power increased the confidence of British colonies like New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, which then began agitating for greater independence from Britain.

The Battle of the Plains of Abraham therefore led not only to British control of Canada, but also indirectly to the American Revolution, to the creation of the United States which was already forming an expedition of conquest towards the north.

Having heard of this planned invasion and knowing that the American invasion would be massive, the British authorities in Quebec hurried to propose and then sign an agreement with the French to fight the Americans together. This will be the Quebec Act of 1774: the treaty which ensures the recognition and survival of the French nation in America.

JUNE 23, 1774 - THE QUEBEC ACT –

THE TREATY ON THE SURVIVAL OF THE FRENCH NATION IN NORTH AMERICA WAS ADOPTED ON JUNE 22 IN LONDON AND SIGNED ON THE 23 IN QUEBEC.



Few Quebecers have noticed it, but there are indeed two national holidays in Quebec. The first celebrated in the capital is aptly named THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY because it is the political holiday of the signing of the Quebec Act on June 23, 1774.

The second celebrated on June 24 mainly in Montreal and in all the towns and villages of the Province is called LA FETE DE LA ST-JEAN with its famous parade because it is the religious festival in honor of the patron saint of French Canadians , Jean Baptiste.

On the other hand, the two festivals owe their existence to the Quebec Act. Thanks to him, Quebecers retained the right to practice their language and religion, regained their civil laws (Napoleon Code), their seigneurial system and obtained a seat on the Council of Canada.

Governor Carleton recommends that the metropolis prepare a new constitution that would satisfy the interests of Canadians and their criticisms of the Royal Proclamation of 1763. By the Royal Proclamation of October 7, 1763, Canada officially became "The Province of Quebec. The English government initially showed great severity towards the Canadians. But he changed his mind when the independence unrest broke out in the Thirteen Colonies and then tried to conciliate the Quebec elites. Because the news from the South is worrying.



Image: The British Colonies in North America. Engraved by William Faden (1777), Yale University Library.

En 1774, les parlementaires britanniques repoussent les frontières du Québec vers l'Ouest afin d'y inclure le bassin hydrographique des Grands Lacs.

Indeed, the royalist British learn that the anti-monarchist Americans are preparing to invade Quebec and that there will be so many of them that they will be sure to lose the battle. The British monarchists in Quebec no longer have a choice: they now need the help of the French to defeat the Americans.

In 1774, the British crown adopted the Quebec Act, a second constitution which led to an expansion of the borders of the Province of Quebec as well as several political and social changes.

London showed realism by listening to the advice of Governor Guy Carleton. The latter recommended abandoning the project of assimilating the Canadians to maintain harmony and facilitate the management of the colony. His position received support in London, particularly among those who did not want to repeat the mistakes made in Ireland. It is in this particular context that King George III ratified the Quebec Act on June 22, 1774 in London.

WHY THE QUEBEC ACT

The British authorities established in Quebec are loyalists faithful to the British crown unlike the American English: republicans who want to separate from England and found a new country: the United States. To do this they must expel British monarchists from American territory.

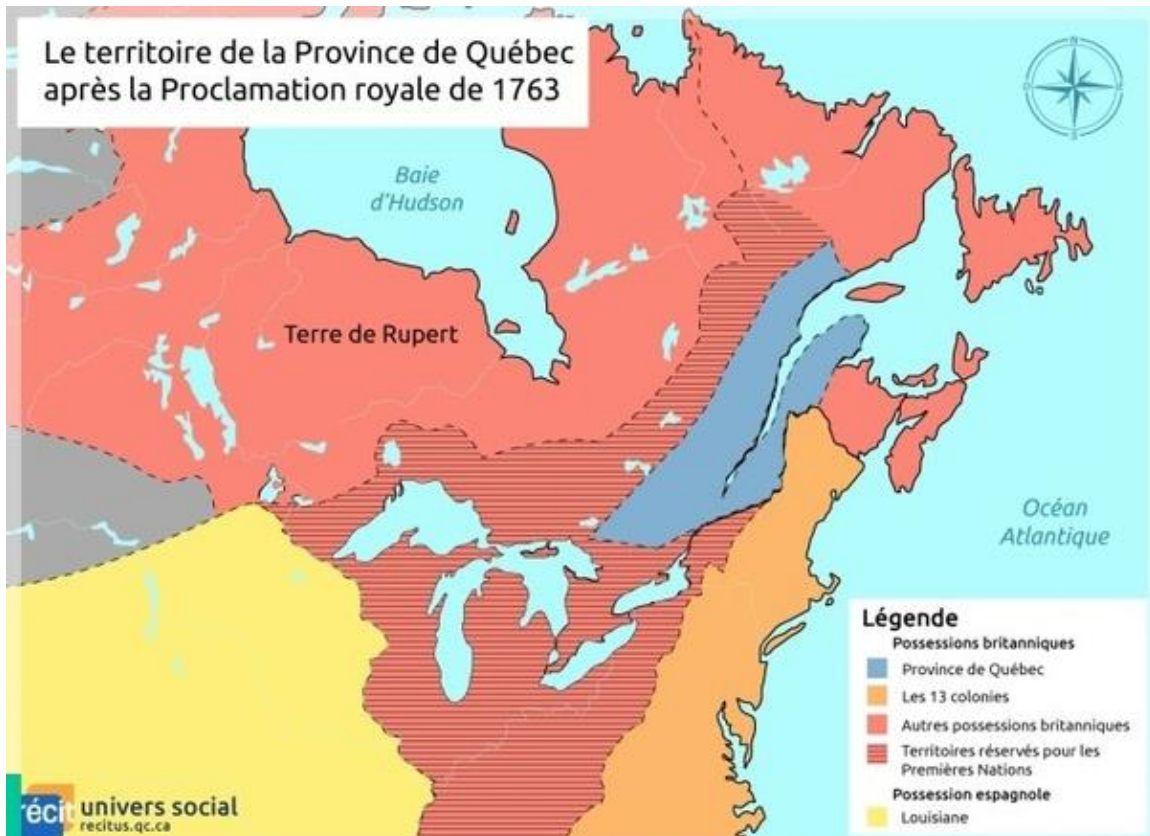


The dissatisfaction of the American colonists with the Quebec Act was part of an already tense context between the Thirteen Colonies and the British crown. More and more American colonists criticized the taxes imposed by the mother country, including those

aimed at reimbursing expenses linked to the Seven Years' War. Many American colonists also demanded representation in the government of the mother country, which the British authorities refused.

The Quebec Act created discontent in the Thirteen Colonies and contributed to the American Revolution. The American Continental Congress nevertheless sent several letters to Canadians inviting them to remain neutral and send delegates to Philadelphia.

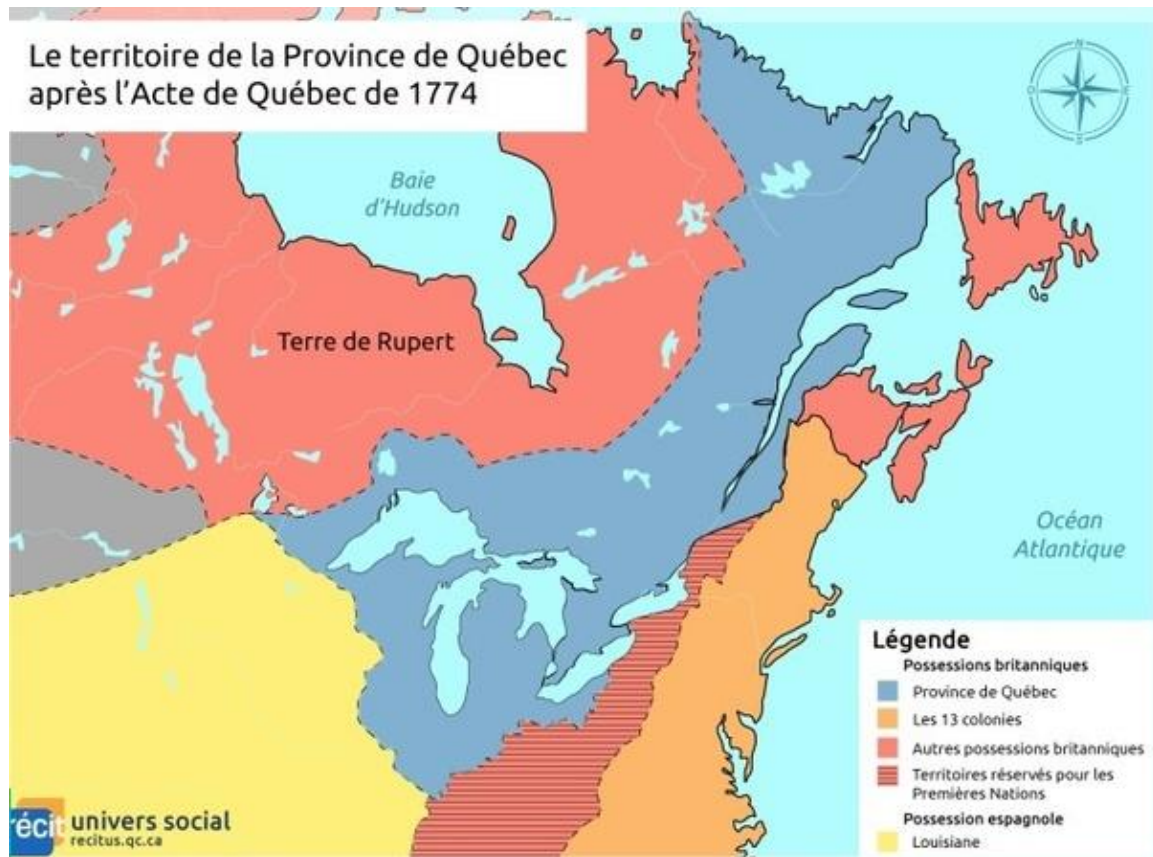
FRENCH TERRITORY BEFORE ACT OF QUEBEC (BLUE)



The territorial extension of Quebec towards the west is undoubtedly the most astonishing aspect of the Act of 1774. With the stroke of a pen, the British parliamentarians pushed the Quebec borders back to the Mississippi in order to include the basin. hydrography of the Great Lakes. London thus wants to fill a legal void in a territory populated by a mixture of indigenous nations and a few islands of French-Canadian settlement.

At the same time, the territorial extension of the province of Quebec in the Great Lakes region is perceived negatively, since this aims to slow down the westward expansion of the Thirteen Colonies. The Americans were therefore furious because the Quebec Act prohibited them from settling in the Ohio River region. This region has a lot of fertile land that the Americans want to acquire.

FRENCH TERRITORY AFTER ACT OF QUEBEC (BLUE)



The British crown must continue to manage its relations with the Thirteen Colonies which are demanding more and more autonomy from the mother country. Many American settlers described the Quebec Act as an intolerable law because it granted too many concessions to the Province of Quebec. Driven by anti-Catholic sentiment, certain American colonists denounced the recognition of the Catholic Church by the British crown.

The Quebec Act, as well as other laws passed by the British in 1774, were judged by anti-British Americans to be “intolerable”, that is to say unacceptable or unbearable. From then on, a revolt movement was organized in the Thirteen Colonies.

Having heard of this planned invasion and knowing that the American invasion would be massive, the British authorities in Quebec rushed to propose and then sign an agreement with the French to fight the Americans together. This will be the Quebec Act of 1774.

1774 - The Quebec Act recognizes the possibility of the coexistence of several legal systems under the protection of the British Crown. The Quebec Act recognized French civil laws and the free exercise of religion and the French language and extended the boundaries north to Labrador and south to the Ohio River. This agreement is of essential strategic importance for the British who absolutely need the support of the French

population to help them defeat the American invaders who want the “British” royalists to leave America and return to England.



On the French side, the citizens of New France know that France abandoned them to instead protect the West Indian trade in spices, sugar and the black slave trade, which was much more lucrative than “a few acres of snow”. Thanks to the Quebec Act, the French were assured of preserving French-speaking culture in America while helping the British to repel two attempted American invasions. The Quebec Act would subsequently become the first legal milestone leading to the creation of Canada and the recognition of the notion of two founding peoples.

Note that the Quebec Act is the treaty which introduced for the first time the concept of **DISTINCT SOCIETY** to qualify the political status of the French community under an English government. When Anglo-Canadians engage in “Quebec bashing” on the use of the notion of a distinct society by the Quebec government, this demonstrates a lack of

understanding of their own history because let us repeat it loud and clear one last time: WITHOUT HELP OF THE FRENCH IN 1775 DURING THE AMERICAN INVASION ENGLISH CANADA AS WE KNOW IT TODAY WOULD NOT EXIST BECAUSE WE WOULD BE AMERICANS.



The Thirteen British Colonies on the eve of the War of Conquest.

If the founding of the first English colonial establishments in America took place at the beginning of the 17th century, it was truly the 18th century which marked the (tremendous) growth of the thirteen Anglo-American colonies, which doubled in population every ten years, and rapidly experiencing major expansion dynamics in the depths of the continent, towards the west and the north (that is to say towards the Amerindian and Franco-Canadian territories of New France).

THE QUEBEC ACT is criticized on both sides of the Atlantic. In London, the carriage of King George III was covered with rubbish by demonstrators who denounced preferential treatment towards “papists”. Catholicism was associated with French absolutism and attempts to reduce the powers of Parliament. This religion was seen through a political

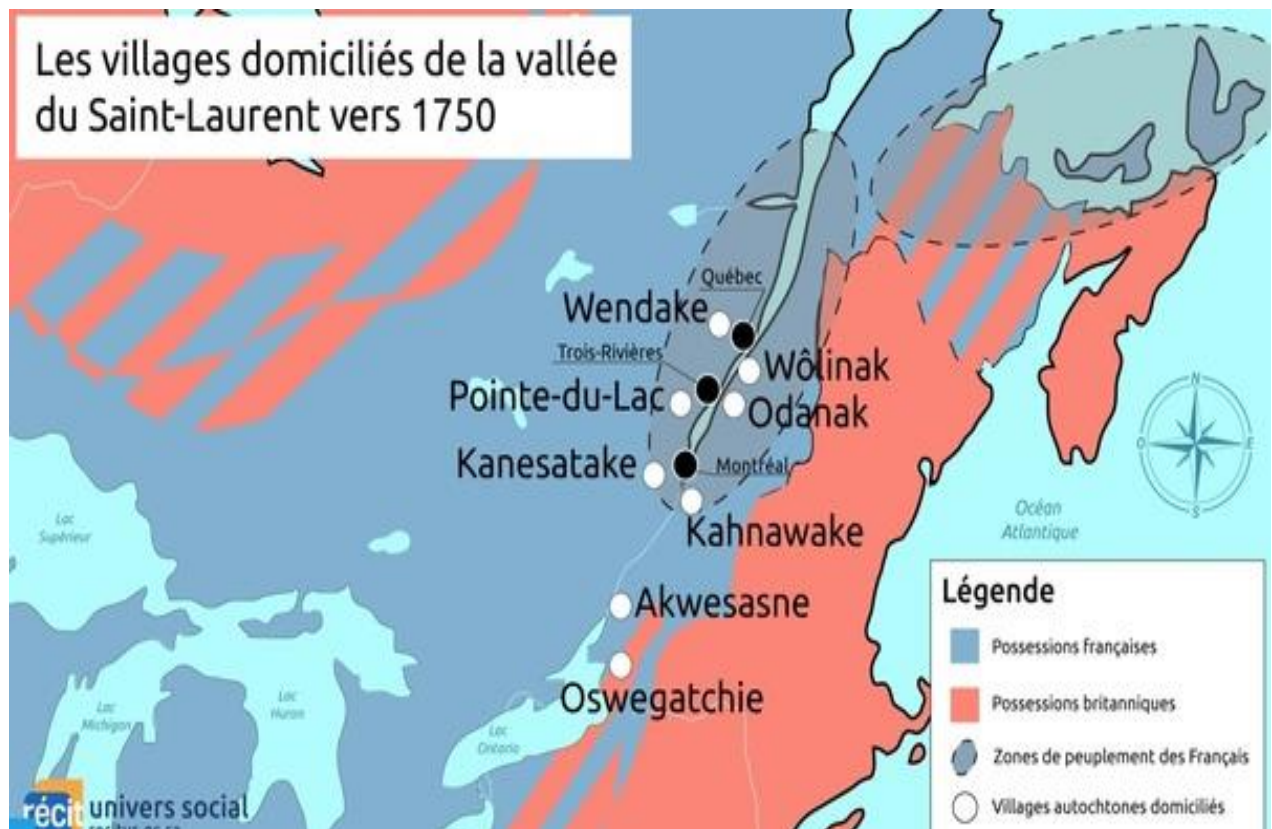
lens, which was entirely founded in the history of Great Britain, but which had no relevance in the Quebec colony.

Popular fury was fueled by a caricature in the London Magazine of July 1774 showing a quartet of Anglican bishops dancing the minuet around the Quebec Bill. To the left of the engraving appears the figure of the devil pointing to the British Prime Minister, Lord Frederick North.

The Quebec Act will add to the grievances of the Americans, who will take up arms in April 1775. The unrest will spread to Montreal, where the bust of George III will be smeared black by English-speaking merchants. They will then attach a potato necklace and a sign on which we can read “Here is the Pope of Canada”.

THE AMERICAN INVASION OF QUEBEC 1775

In September 1775, the Thirteen American Colonies launched an invasion of Canada. The American military took Montreal in November, but failed to take Quebec during an attack in December of the same year. During the invasion, the majority of the Canadian elite sided with the British authorities following the signing of the Quebec Act. For some indigenous nations in the region, the American invasion was an opportunity to honor their alliance with the British crown by supporting the war effort against the American army.

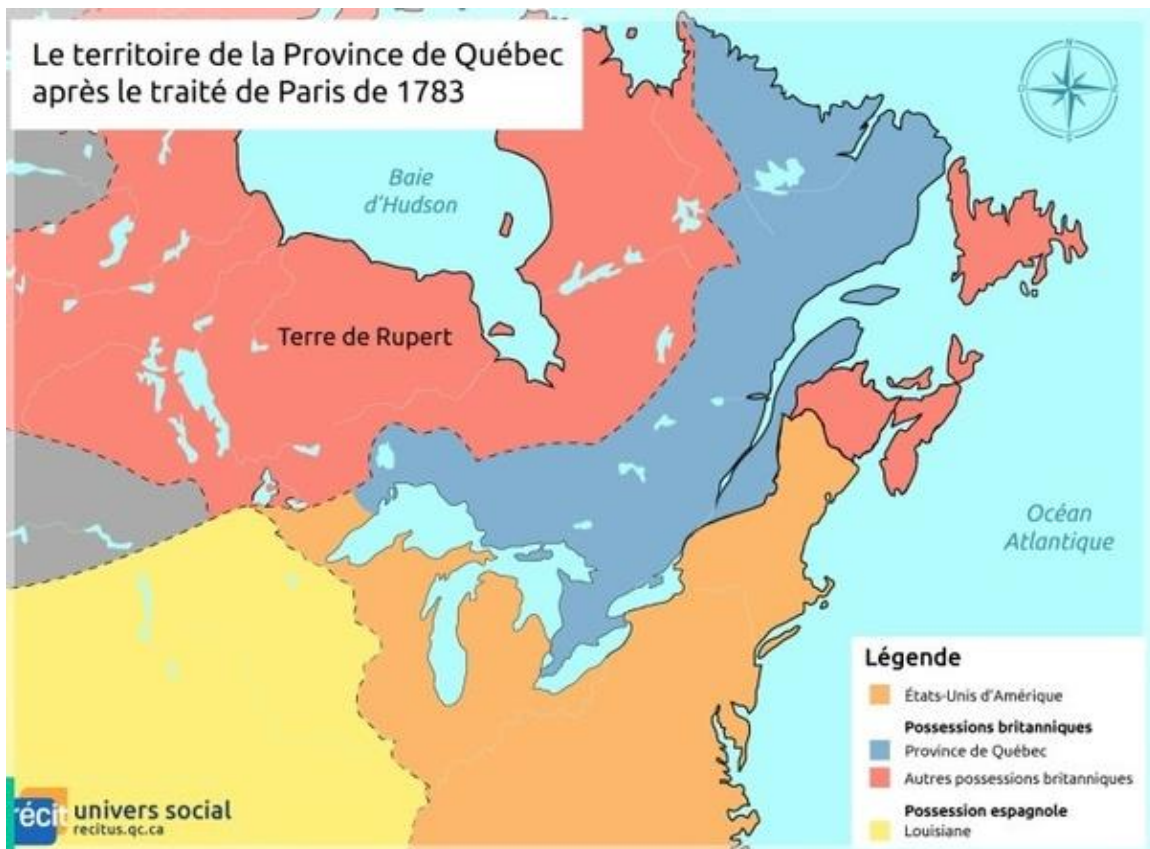


MAP OF AFFILIATED NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Unable to consolidate their presence in the St. Lawrence Valley, American troops were forced to retreat in the face of the British counterattack in 1776. However, the American defeat in the Province of Quebec did not end the American Revolution. In 1776, the United States of America declared its independence, which was recognized by the British crown in 1783 after a war that lasted seven years. It was through the Treaty of Paris of 1783 that this recognition was made official.

In addition to ending the war between Great Britain and the United States, the Treaty of Paris of 1783 redraws colonial boundaries in North America. Great Britain retains the Province of Quebec and the Maritime colonies, but must cede the territories south of the Great Lakes. Thus, the United States can now colonize these territories previously reserved for different indigenous nations.

QUEBEC TERRITORY AFTER THE TREATY OF PARIS – 1783



An unexpected difficulty arises when 40,000 English-speaking loyalists arrive from the United States wishing to remain under British laws... As these new arrivals do not want French laws, the laws must once again be changed. This is how the Constitutional Act of Canada was promulgated, which formalized the territorial division between Francophones (province of Lower Canada or Canada East, east of the Ottawa River) and Anglophones (province of Upper Canada). or Canada West, west of the same river).

From this time on, the continual arrival of new settlers of Anglo-Saxon origin constantly threatened the national existence of French Canadians. By the Act of Quebec (1774), they had obtained the reestablishment of the Napoleonic Code of French civil laws, the right to the Catholic religion, the use of the French language and had been exempted from the oath of the test; in 1791, Great Britain granted them representative rule. This was the beginning of what was later called: the Franco-Canadian Distinct Society. Canada was divided into two provinces (Upper and Lower Canada). The first where the loyalists began to settle, the second populated only by French.

The two provinces each had a provincial parliament. We see that the authors of this constitution were primarily concerned with protecting the victors against the numerical superiority of the vanquished. Lord Dorchester's government was a period of appeasement; but under his successors (Prescott, Milne, Dunn and Craigh), the struggle began between the English administration and the . For them, it was a question of maintaining the use of their language in the deliberations of the House of Lower Canada, and in all acts of public life. They then founded their first political newspaper, "le Canadien", which took as its motto and program: Our institutions, our language and our laws.

Towards a new *modus vivendi*.

Despite so many proofs of loyalty given by French Canadians to the British crown, the English party did not intend to disarm. The continued increase in the Anglo-Saxon population, mainly due to immigration, encouraged its hopes and exalted its pretensions. The constitution of 1791 no longer had any reason to exist since numerical superiority would soon cease to belong to the French. In 1826, we succeeded in having a bill presented to the House of Commons for the union of the two Canadas into a single government.

"This bill gave Upper Canada a much more numerous representation than Lower Canada, proscribed the French language, restricted the freedom of Catholic worship and the rights of representatives to public funds, reduced, in a word, French Canada to the condition of Ireland. » (Laverdière, Abridged History of Canada.)

The French Canadians, led by energetic activists, the most famous of whom was Papineau, engaged in the struggle which remained completely legal and peaceful for a long time; but in 1837 and 1838 there were uprisings; they were cruelly repressed (massacre of Saint-Eustache), and the Union bill was promulgated (1840).



The English language was imposed in parliamentary debates, and the House was deprived of the right to refuse or restrict the salaries of civil servants and judges. The seat of government was established in Kingston (1841), transferred to Montreal (1844); then it was decided that Toronto and Quebec would alternately have for periods of four years the honor of being the capital of the colony; finally, in 1856, we left Quebec and Toronto for the small town of Ottawa, fortunately located on the border of the two Canadas.

The French Canadians thought about making the best possible use of the situation presented to them. Alternately allies of the conservatives or the liberals of Upper Canada according to the interest of the moment, and taking advantage of the benevolent dispositions of Lord Elgin, they ended up winning an equal share in the ministry (role of Lafontaine, Morin, Taché and Cartier). Also this period was marked by happy legislative measures and by progress of all kinds (organization of the municipal regime and public education; foundation of the University of Laval, a free French university, directed by the high clergy Catholic, in 1854); abolition of seigneurial tenure, replaced by inexpensive and redeemable land rent. The advent of a regime of justice and harmony was near.

The prodigious increase in the French population denied its adversaries the hope of a definitive victory. Since the vanquished could not be absorbed by the victors, a way had to be found to make them live peacefully side by side. Moreover, the two nationalities had naturally carved out their share in the vast British empire, the French on the lower St. Lawrence, between its mouth and the confluence of the Ottawa, the English on the upper river as far as the great Lakes. ; everywhere else the Anglo-Saxon element had only French minorities before it, which were still weak. Finally, both demanded an

autonomous administration for the colony, and there was reason to fear, in the event of prolonged resistance from the metropolis, that annexation to the United States would be the final consequence.

And finally, irony of history, the Quebecers thus turned their defeat of 1759 into victory...against the France of Napoleon who would undoubtedly have sold New France to the Americans as she did for Louisiana.

FRENCH LOUISIANA IN ORANGE

La vente de la Louisiane actée en 1803

Rapidement, Napoléon Bonaparte prend conscience qu'il ne pourra pas lutter sur plusieurs fronts, en Amérique et en Europe. Dans le même temps, Anglais et Américains ont vent du traité de San Ildefonso. Les États-Unis proposent alors à la France de racheter la Louisiane, le président Thomas Jefferson ayant conscience que cela permettrait de doubler son territoire. Napoléon est favorable à cette solution, car il ne pense pas pouvoir défendre ce territoire face aux

Anglais, et parce qu'à plus long terme, il imagine que les Américains deviendront des rivaux de l'Empire britannique.

L'Espagne rétrocède officiellement la Louisiane à la France le 30 novembre 1803, et le 20 décembre, la France signe la vente de la Louisiane aux États-Unis. La France a vendu la Louisiane aux États-Unis pour 60 millions de francs, ce qui a permis à Napoléon Bonaparte de financer en partie ses campagnes militaires.



BIRTH OF A NATION

The Constitution of 1867 offered Canada significant political stability.

Firstly, the federal government sought to strengthen the unity of the country by launching the construction of a transcontinental railway, from the port of Halifax to the Pacific Ocean: the Canadian Pacific Railway was inaugurated twenty years later, in 1887.



British Columbia and Prince Edward Island joined the federation in 1873. Born from the colonization of the Prairie, Saskatchewan and Alberta were finally founded in 1905. The last decades of the 19th century proved complicated. The rail network increased tenfold and reached 30,000 kilometers. Combined with customs protections, it led to the development of national industry and a tripling of trade. But the economy, as a whole, is slipping.

The arrival in 1896 of the Liberal government of Wilfrid Laurier, a French-speaking Canadian, coincided with a turnaround in the economic situation and inaugurated three decades of great prosperity. The country is finally retaining its immigrants, many of whom come from Eastern Europe, particularly Ukraine. Ultimately, the Canadian population doubled and reached ten million inhabitants in 1931 (compared to 120 million for the United States)

When the Great War broke out in 1914, many Canadians of British origin voluntarily enlisted to support the Union Jack. The Canadian soldiers, whose number reached 600,000, formed an army corps which would particularly distinguish itself at Vimy, between Arras and Lens, in April 1917. This exploit and a few others earned Canada the privilege of co-signing the treaty of Versailles in its own name and not as British Dominion.

A decade later, with the ratification of the Statute of Westminster on December 11, 1931, the country smoothly acquired full independence while joining the Commonwealth. The English sovereign remains the official head of state, the function being exercised by a governor general of Canadian nationality.

SOURCE

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